

## Meagher County Receives Grants

By Andrew Geiger, (406)841-2772 [ageiger@mt.gov](mailto:ageiger@mt.gov)

### **Infrastructure and Care for Seniors to be Addressed**

Montana Department of Commerce Director Tony Preite will be in White Sulpher Springs on June 13<sup>th</sup> to formally award \$1,378,430 to the County for a pair of projects in Martinsdale and White Sulpher Springs. “What is so great about this program is that local communities make the decision on what their greatest needs are,” Governor Brian Schweitzer said. “Meagher County faces different challenges from Gallatin County, and we are customizing government to make sure we serve all of Montana.”

### **Local Control**

The funding for the project comes from the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) administered by the Montana Department of Commerce. The funding will be used to make critical repairs to the Martinsdale water system, and build a modern senior care facility in White Sulpher Springs. Tony Preite explained that under this program local officials determine their greatest area of need and then apply for state funding in crucial areas. “It is important to remember that before we get involved in the picture a tremendous amount of work has already been done at the local level,” Preite said. “We are proud to partner with this effort to ensure Meagher County keeps pace in addressing these crucial areas of concerns to our citizens.” Preite also explained that the CDBG funding mechanism, often cited by experts as a textbook example of how to streamline government and bring community decisions back to the local level, has been the target for severe budget reductions for the last five years. “We’ve sure been scrapping to ward off any deep cuts, because the reality is the impact gets felt the most in places like Meagher County.”

### **Senior Care**

Meagher County Commissioner Jamie Doggett explained that the program allows the county to take on projects that otherwise would not be possible. “Simply put, we just wouldn’t be able to do it...and I for one am tired of seeing some of Meagher County’s greatest residents, our seniors, having to go off to Helena or Bozeman just to get the specialized care they need,” Doggett said.